



Willamette Valley Conservation Study

Conserving America's Great Outdoors



Taylor's Checkerspot.
©Aaron Barna

Prairies and savannas were once the most widespread habitats in the Willamette Valley and were composed of native grasses, wildflowers and large Oregon white oak trees.

Many native plants, such as Nelson's checkermallow, are now rare and declining due to largescale conversion to other land uses.



Upland Prairie, Savanna and Wet Prairie

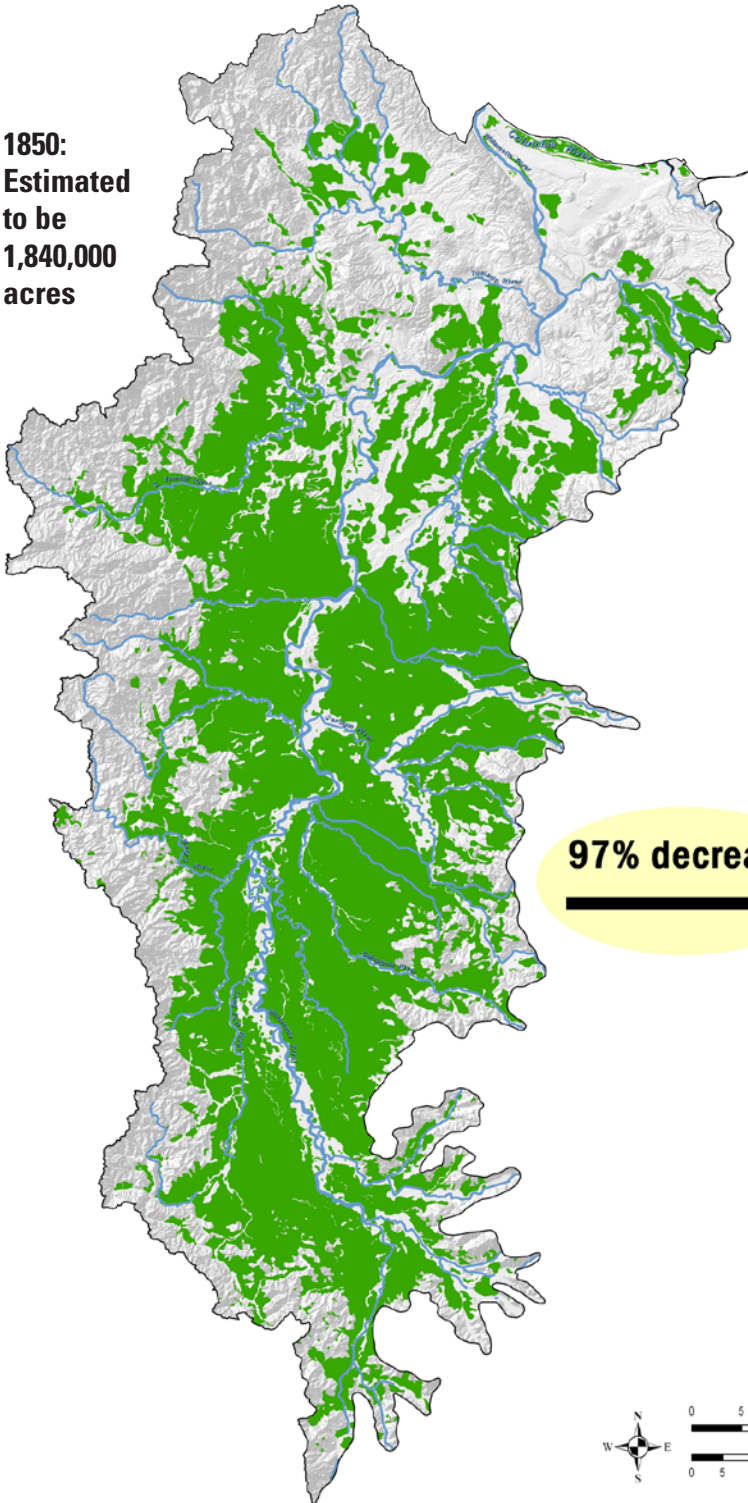


Top: Nelson's checkermallow. USFWS

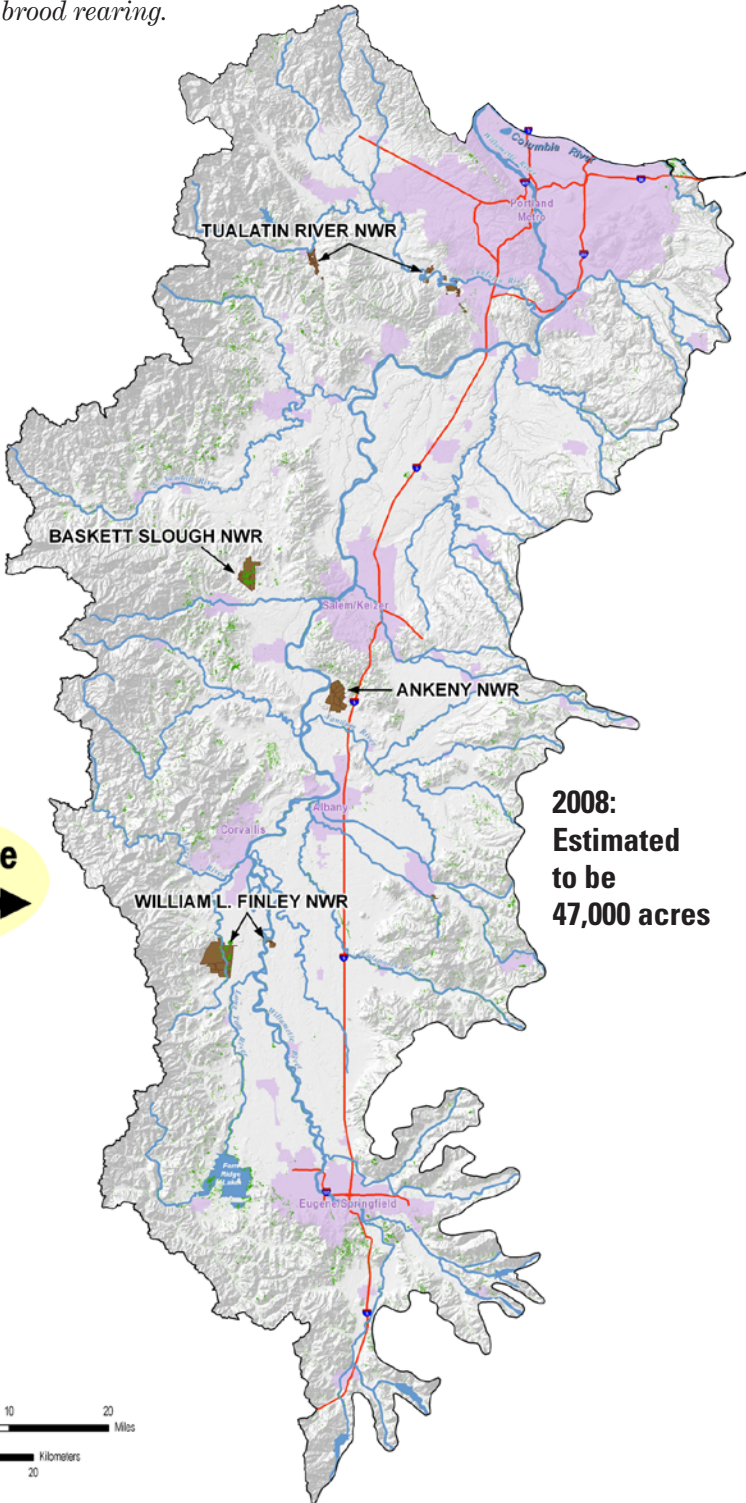
Above: Western meadowlark. USFWS

Oregon's state bird, the western meadowlark, depends on large areas of native grasslands for nesting and brood rearing.

1850:
Estimated
to be
1,840,000
acres



97% decrease



2008:
Estimated
to be
47,000 acres

DATA SOURCE: The Nature Conservancy, 2008.
Data is based on General Land Office surveys
between 1851 and 1910.

DATA SOURCE: The Nature Conservancy, 2008.
Data is a compilation of several datasets published
between 1980 and 2008.